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IPBES Regional Assessments- a window of opportunity

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- What is IPBES doing?
 - The 4 functions
 - The 1st Programme of Work (2014-2018)
- Window of opportunity?
 - Challenges in 2015
 - Science catalysis function
- Looking ahead:
 - How can we contribute?



What is IPBES?



IPBES-1 (Jan 2013, Bonn)



IPBES-2 (Dec 2013, Antalya)

- Intergovernmental **P**latform on **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices
- **Overall objective:** To provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making
- Established in April 2012, Panama
- 124 Members
- Secretariat hosted in Bonn

Inspired from but also adapted from IPCC

Content

4 Functions:

- Assessments **but not only**
- Capacity Building
- Science-policy tools
- Knowledge generation catalysis

And also:

- Indigenous and local knowledge

Process

- Mandatory geographical balance (5 UN regions)
- Multistakeholder
- Governance (Bureau+MEP)

The 4 functions of IPBES

IPBES was established with four agreed functions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge generation	Identify knowledge needs of policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment	Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy support tools	Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies, facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building	Prioritize key capacity building needs, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs

Structure of the work programme

Objective 1: Strengthen the **capacity** and **knowledge** foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key IPBES functions

Objective 2: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the **sub-regional, regional and global levels**

Objective 3: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regard to **thematic and methodological issues**

Objective 4: **Communicate** and **evaluate** IPBES activities, deliverables and findings

4 Objectives and 18 Deliverables

Objective 1 Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform:

- a) **Priority capacity-building-needs** to implement the Platform work programme are **matched with resources** through catalysing financial and in-kind support
- b) **Capacities needed to implement the Platform work programme are developed** with support provided by network on capacity-building
- c) Procedures and approaches for **working with indigenous and local knowledge systems**
- d) **Priority knowledge and data needs for policy-making** are addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking

Objective 2 Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the subregional, regional and global levels:

- a) **Guide on production and integration of assessments** from and across all scales
- b) **Regional/Subregional assessments** on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- c) **Global assessment** on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Objective 3 Strengthen the science-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues:

- a) **Thematic assessment on pollination** and food production
- b) **Thematic assessments on land degradation** and restoration; **on invasive alien species; and on sustainable use.**
- c) **Policy support tools and methodologies for scenarios analysis and modelling** of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide
- d) **Policy support tools and methodologies regarding value, valuation and accounting** of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide

Objective 4 Communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings:

- a) **Catalogue of relevant assessments**
- b) **Development of an information and data management plan**
- c) **Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies**
- d) **Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes**
- e) **Reviews of the effectiveness** of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches to inform future development of the Platform

2015 in a nutshell

3 task forces implement their plans

- Capacity building, **knowledge and data** and indigenous and local knowledge

2 full assessments deliver in February 2016 (IPBES-4)

- Pollination and food production
- **Methodologies for scenarios analysis and modelling**

5 new assessments are initiated

- **4 Regional/Subregional assessments**
- Land degradation and restoration

4 possible future assessments are scoped

- Global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Invasive alien species
- Sustainable use
- Diverse conceptualisations of values

2b: Regional and subregional assessments

4 regions were identified for the regional assessments, to be further divided into sub-regions:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe and Central Asia
- Open Oceans: maybe later

Adopted by IPBES-3, Assessments run 2015-2018

Objective of the regional assessment process

- strengthen the science-policy interface at regional and subregional levels.
- analyse the state of knowledge on interactions between people and nature, including by highlighting potential tipping points, feedbacks and trade-offs.
- assess current status and trends (often going back in time several decades) and future projections (2020 to 2050)
- feed into the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the CBD and the post-2015 development agenda.

Link with other IPBES deliverables

IPBES common framework on data standards:

→ apply to all assessments in order to facilitate intra- and inter-regional and subregional comparisons.

IPBES catalogue of assessments

IPBES task force on indigenous and local knowledge

→ provides guidance.

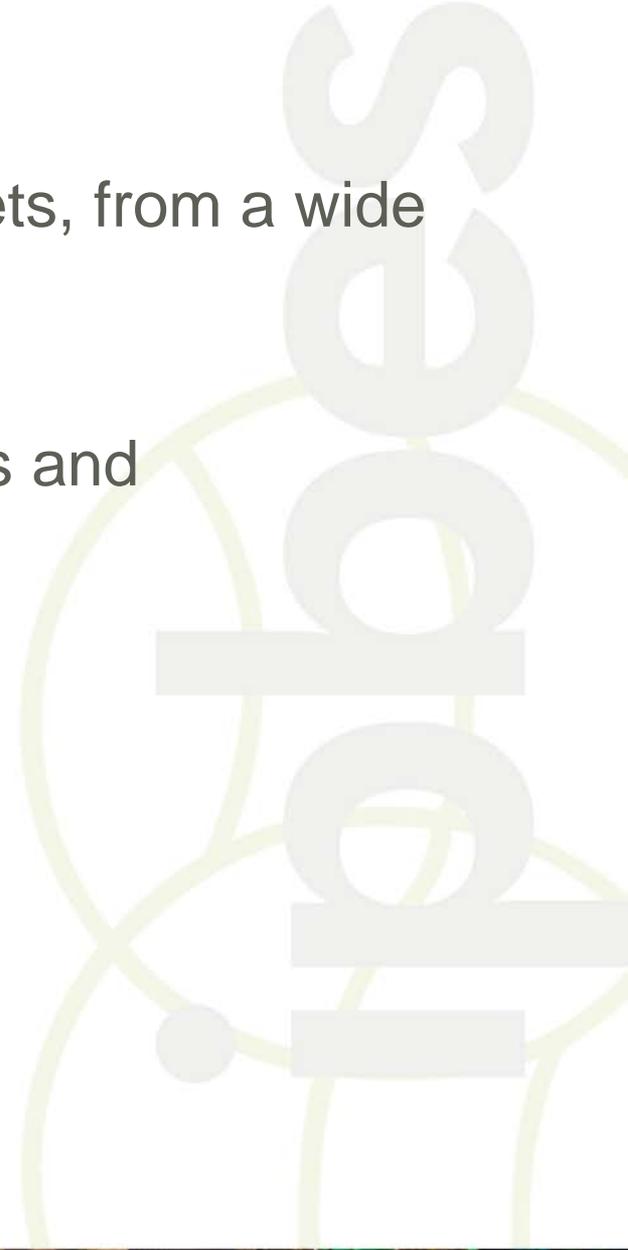
The capacity to perform these tasks

→ strengthened through training, knowledge-sharing and collaborations between subregions and countries

Key data sets

Key task will be to identify relevant datasets, from a wide range of sources, including:

- global, regional and national institutions and organizations
- research projects
- analysis of the scientific literature
- indigenous and local knowledge



Examples of key priorities for biodiversity research & observation

- Predict: Intensify & coordinate work on scenarios & models
- Status and trends: Improve observation systems - Support development of the Global Biodiversity Observing System, GEO BON (under GEO)
- etc.





**Thank
you !**



Next steps:

Start of the assessments in 2015:

- Call for nominations from Governments & stakeholders ended 31 March 2015
- 100 experts for each region are now selected
- First author meeting will take place 31. August-4 September 2015

2016

- first drafts prepared (6-7 months), expert review (6 weeks), second author meeting, coupled with author meeting of regional assessment

Next steps:

- **1-3/2017:** second draft (+first draft of summary for policy makers) send for review (2 months)
- **3-6/2017:** 3rd author meeting (Co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors, MEP/Bureau)
- **10-11/2017:** final review of assessment and summary for policymakers
- **2018:** Plenary (IPBES-6) approves/accepts thematic and regional assessments, including the summaries for policymakers

Key datasets e.g. in Europe and Central Asia

- European Union MAES initiative
- Data centres such as the European Environment Agency, Joint Research Centre, Eurostat, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization
- Relevant centres and research projects collecting earth observation data
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility GBIF
- Encyclopaedia of Life EoL
- Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network GEO BON
- International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN

Chapter 1: Setting the Scene

- Regional specificities, including policy questions

Chapter 2: Nature's benefits to people

- Values of nature's benefits to people within the region; Aichi Targets 14 and 15, and food, water, energy security

Chapter 3: Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people

- Include Aichi Target 13 & 14, bio-cultural diversity, cultural landscapes, fragile habitats and species of special concern

Chapter outline

Chapter 4: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives of quality of life

- Aichi targets 5, 7,8,9 & 10

Chapter 5: Integrated cross scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society

- Majority of the scenario work; includes cross-scale analysis – feedbacks, trade-offs, tipping points and links to other regions; Aichi Target 2

Chapter 6: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors